authorities are being obtained for use of Bihta Air Force Station for civilian air services operations.

Staff Strength of AI and IA

1676. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 4114, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th April, 2001, and state:

(a) whether the number of staff in Air India/Indian Airlines is in accordance with the international standards;

(b) whether any assessment has been made by Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) There are no norms prescribed for employee aircraft ratio and the same differs from airline to airline depending upon the opertional network, the type and extent of functions performed.

(b) and (c) Air India has taken following steps for rationalising man-power in order to reduce staff cost and make it viable:—

(i) Freeze on external recruitment in non-operational categories; (ii) Several posts of India based officers abroad have been abolished; (iii) Rolling back of retirement age from 60 to 58 years; (iv) Redeployment of employees from non-operational to operational areas; (v) Two voluntary schemes have been notified *viz.* shorter working week for a period of two years extendable upto five years.

As regard Indian Airlines, Some of the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this direction are:—

(i) Roll back of retirement age from 60 to 58 years; (ii) Ban on direct recruitment; (iii) Non-filling up of non-operational posts; (iv) Induction of more aircraft through leasing.

Development of Airports of North-Eastern Region

†1677. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.